

To: House Ways & Means Committee

Hearing on Social Security at 75 years: More Necessary than Ever

From: Virginia L. Damron

AK

IN RE: Pension Offset

I communicated with the Social Security Administration prior to my retirement and believed that I would receive a Social Security pension of about \$1100. 00 per month at age 65 in 2002. This was based on my husband's 23 years in the U.S. Air Force and some other employment during his life. I retired from the State of Alaska in 1995. My budget was based on what I thought were reliable figures.

The unexpected offset in my pension to \$247 a month created difficulties in paying my bills and maintaining my quality of life. I am now receiving \$388 a month and every increase in cost of living that I receive incurs a debt to Social Security to repay and/or a lowered pension.

I was honorably discharged from USAF in June 1956 due to marriage and pregnancy. I was unemployed from 1956 until 1974 as it was very difficult to find employment as a military spouse in the early years. I was employed by Air Force Morale Welfare Fund from 1974 until 1982 and the State of Alaska From 1983 to 1995, neither are Social Security employers. As a result, I was not eligible for a pension of my own.

I believe that in serving our country, we earned the right to full Social Security benefits and the offset should be removed from law.

This is written on my personal behalf with no input from any other person or agency.

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Virginia L. Damron  
Retiree